



Jeffrey S. Brown, M.P.H., M.S.W.
Department Director

Wesley G. Nicks, R.E.H.S.
Environmental Health Director

Placer County Food Establishment Green, Yellow and Red Placard System

Placer County is enhancing our inspection program by establishing a color-coded placard system at retail food facilities. The Placards will serve as a visual aid indicating compliance of the health and safety standards at your facility.

Background

Residents and visitors of Placer County have asked for this program so they can easily see information on food safety at retail facilities. Additionally, a PASS placard at the facility may serve as assurance to your customers of the facility's good operating practices. The placard program is either currently being used or is being developed in many jurisdictions throughout California.

Placard Criteria

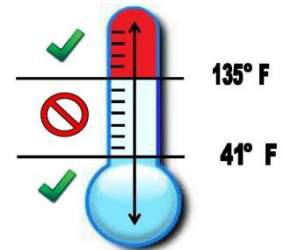
The color-coded placard system is designed to minimize occurrence of the five most critical risk factors for foodborne illness in the United States:



**1. Food from unsafe
source**



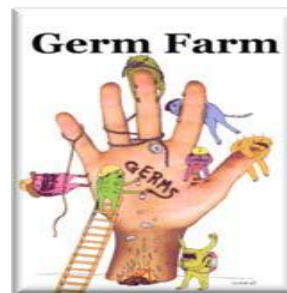
2. Inadequate cooking



**3. Improper holding
temperatures**



**4. Contaminated
equipment**



**5. Poor personal
hygiene**

The color of the placard is based on of some the following factors:

- ***Major and Minor Violations*** observed
- ***Imminent Health Hazards*** observed
- Failure to follow the timetable outlined in a **Compliance Agreement** that has been previously established



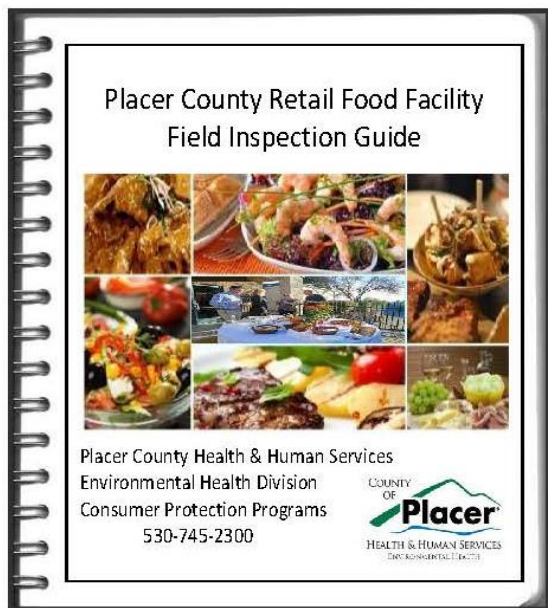
Explanation of Food Terms

Imminent Health Hazards pose a significant health threat and require immediate correction or closure of the facility

Major Violations if left uncorrected are conditions most likely to result in foodborne illness

Minor Violations if left uncorrected create unsanitary and unsafe conditions that could lead to major violations

A Compliance Agreement is a written agreement between the food facility operator or owner and the Placer County Environmental Health Division to achieve compliance over a specified time line



A more in-depth description of *major and minor violations* is contained in the Placer County Food Facility Field Inspection Guide. The website for finding this guide online is:

[www. Jane get with Mike D to get the URL.](#)

The three color-coded placards are described in the following table:

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>GREEN PLACARD</p>  | <p>The following criteria must be met for issuance of a Green Pass placard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No major violations are observed; or • All major violations observed are corrected or mitigated by the end of the inspection |
| <p>YELLOW PLACARD</p>  | <p>One of the following conditions would result in issuance of a Yellow Conditional Pass placard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to correct any major violation observed during the inspection, or • Violation of a Compliance Agreement which can include: 1) Failure to correct major and minor violations or 2) The same major or minor violation observed during two consecutive routine inspections |
| <p>RED PLACARD</p>  | <p>The following criteria would result in issuance of a Red Closed placard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any condition that poses an imminent health hazard that cannot be corrected or mitigated during the inspection |

Placard Location

Upon completion of a routine inspection or re-inspection, the Environmental Health Specialist will post a placard clearly visible to the general public entering the food facility. Under most circumstances, this means the placard will be posted in one of the following locations:

- In the front window of the food facility within five (5) feet of the customer entrance
- In a location approved by Environmental Health to ensure proper notice to the general public and patrons

Special Situations

Under certain conditions a facility may be posted with two or more placards. A restaurant with a bar, for instance, will have one placard for the restaurant and one placard for the bar. The same maybe true for a supermarket. If two food facilities are in the same building or the businesses share a common patron entrance, the placard will be posted in the initial patron contact area of each business.

Placard Maintenance

A new placard will be issued at each routine inspection, re-inspection or a change of ownership. Defacing, camouflaging, marring, hiding, or removing the placard is prohibited. If your placard becomes damaged, you may call your district specialist for a replacement.

Compliance after Receiving a Red or Yellow Placard

First Re-inspection



Red Placard

Re-inspection after issuing a **Red Closed** placard may take place within 24 hours after the condition causing the closure has been corrected. Any facility that has been closed will only be allowed to reopen after all major violations have been corrected and a **Green Pass** Placard is issued. If necessary, re-inspections may be conducted after normal office hours.



Yellow Placard

Re-inspection after issuing a Yellow Conditional Pass placard may take place within 24 hours after the resulting violations have been corrected. If necessary, re-inspections may be conducted after normal office hours.

A **Green Pass** Placard will be issued, when:

- 1) No major violations are observed
- 2) Violations contained within a Compliance Agreement have been corrected

Phased Interventions for a Yellow Placard

When a facility receives repeated re-inspections without compliance being achieved, assistance may be provided to the food facility owner or operator. In these cases Environmental Health may provide additional information, training and incentives, or will correct the observed deficiencies by the following process:

When a Second Re-Inspection is Required



When violations that have resulted in the issuance of a Yellow Conditional Pass placard have **NOT** been corrected so that a **second** re-inspection is required:

- A **Compliance Agreement** with a specified time line for corrections will be required by Environmental Health

When a Third Re-Inspection is Required



When the violations resulting in the issuance of a Yellow Conditional Pass placard still have **NOT** been corrected so that a **third** re-inspection is required for the failure to meet the conditions of a compliance agreement:

- An **Office Hearing** will be scheduled with the facility owner or operator. Environmental Health will review and consider the current permit status

When continued failure to comply occurs

When violations resulting in the issuance of a Yellow Conditional Pass placard have continued beyond multiple re-inspections, or a failure of a compliance agreement or other conditions that pose an imminent health hazard have occurred, the Permit-to-Operate may be **suspended or revoked** by the Director of Environmental Health following the procedures specified in the California Retail Food Code.

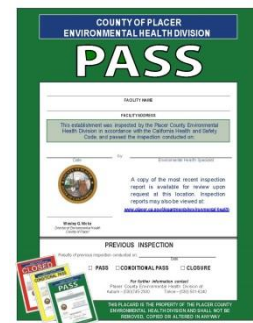
Pilot Program Implementation

Between September 2015 and March 2016 the following program updates will be conducted:

- Staff inspection methodology, observations and code interpretation, will be standardized to avoid inconsistencies
- Regional placard workshops for food facility owners, operators and employees will be scheduled to increase knowledge of food safety and familiarity with the program
- Placer County's Food Inspection Guide and Placard Program handouts, videos and PowerPoint presentations will be made available online. Individual facility training may be scheduled upon request.

Placard Program Workshops

Placer County Environmental Health Division will be offering regional **"How to Get a Green Pass Placard"** workshops in *October, November and December at no cost to the participants*. The specific criteria for the placard program, as well as basic food safety training, will be reviewed during the two-hour workshop. The goal of these workshops is to provide each participant with a complete understanding of how to receive and maintain a **Green Pass** placard.



Full Implementation

Full implementation of the placard program will not occur until March 2016. At that time, a **Green Pass** placard will be mailed to each facility with a current valid permit in good standing. Instructions on posting your placard will be included. The facility owner of record will be charged at Environmental Health's hourly rate for re-inspections.

[Additional Resources](#)

The California Retail Food Code (CalCode) ([PUT IN the En Health LINK](#)) establishes uniform regulation of health and sanitation standards for retail food facilities and is the primary reference used in food facility inspections.

The Placer County Food Facility Field Inspection Guide ([PUT IN THE En Health LINK](#)) provides a reference list of California Retail Food Codes and examples of “major” and “minor” violations for each item on the Official Inspection Report used by Placer County Environmental Health staff.

[If you have any additional questions?](#)

Auburn Office

Diane Gereke, REHS
Phone: 530-745-2311
Email: dgereke@placer.ca.gov

Tahoe Office

Vickie Sandoval, MPH, REHS
Phone: 530-581-6248
Email: vsandova@placer.ca.gov